

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 GENEVA 08092 241728Z

15

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 AID-05 L-03 FRB-01 OMB-01 TAR-01

SP-02 AGR-10 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 CEA-01

DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-02 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-04 /081 W

----- 127567

R 241625Z OCT 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6472

UNCLAS GENEVA 8092

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ECE

SUBJ: ECE-GROUP OF RAPPORTEURS ON CONTAINER TRANSPORT

THE GROUP OF RAPPORTEURS ON CONTAINER TRANSPORT OF THE
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE AT ITS SIXTEENTH SESSION
CONSIDERED THE FOLLOWING MAJOR SUBJECTS:

1. INTERMODAL TRANSPORT CONVENTION. THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT
REPORTED ON ITS PREPARATIONS FOR THE UNCTAD IPG BEGINNING
16 FEBRUARY. NO DOCUMENTATION IS AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME;
HOWEVER, THE SECRETARIAT IS PREPARING MAJOR STUDIES OF FOUR
SUBJECTS: MULTIMODAL TRANSPORT TECHNOLOGY; ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL IMPLICATINS OF MULTIMODAL TRANSPORT; CUSTOMS
QUESTIONS; AND QUESTIONS OF LIABILITY. THE SECRETARIAT
HAS MADE CASE STUDIES OF A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, ONLY ONE
OF WHICH INVOLVES A DEVELOPED COUNTRY(CANADA). IT IS THE
EXPECTATION OF THE SECRETARIAT THAT DRAFTING OF A
CONVENTION WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE IPG BUT PREPARATIONS HAVE
NOT INCLUDED DRAFTING. RAPPORTEURS' QUESTIONS
RELATED MOSTLY TO IPG PROCEDURE. THE US THEN REPORTED
ON THE US CARGO LIABILITY STUDY. THE RAPPORTEURS WERE
NOT ACQUAINTED WITH THE US STUDY. THEY REQUESTED
ADDITIONAL COPIES FOR FURTHER STUDY BY THEIR GOVERNMENTS.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 GENEVA 08092 241728Z

THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT ALSO SHOWED GREAT INTEREST IN THE

STUDY AND INDICATED THAT IT WAS NOT ACQUAINTED WITH IT.
THE REASON MAY BE THAT MR. SHAH OF THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT
IS ON HOME LEAVE.

2. PREPARATIONS FOR THE AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP
ON STANDARDIZATION. MUCH OF THE GRCT'S SUBSTANTIVE
DISCUSSION RELATED TO ECE PREPARATION FOR THE UNCTAD
MEETING OF CONTAINER EXPERTS. THE US DEL STRESSED ITS
SATISFACTION WITH THE WORK OF ISO AND INDICATED THAT
THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE CONFINED TO OBSERVATION
OF ISO'S WORK AND THAT THEY SHOULD ONLY INTERVEN IF ISO
FAILED TO PERFORM ITS FUNCTION. OTHER DELEGATIONS ECHOED
SILENT DURING THE DISCUSSION. THE OBSERVER FROM THE
INSTITUTE OF CONTAINER LESSORS (IICL) STATED THAT OF THE
1,300,000 CONTAINERS IN EXISTENCE 85-90 PER CENT WERE IN
CONFORMANCE WITH ISO STANDARDS. IT WAS AGREED THAT MOST
OF THE WORK TOWARDS STANDARDIZATION HAD BEEN COMPLETED
AND THAT LITTLE REMAINED FOR UNCTAD OR GOVERNMENTS TO DO.
IT APPEARED THAT LDC PARTICIPATION IN ISO WAS NEGLIGIBLE
AND THAT PERHAPS EDUCATION ABOUT THE EXISTING STATE OF
STANDARDIZATION MIGHT BE IN POINT. THE CHAIRMAN CONCLUDED
THAT GOVERNMENTS SHOULD COMMENT TO THE SECRETARIAT REGARDING
GRCT DOCUMENT R 13 BEFORE 15 DEC. THE UK AND THE FRG
WOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN DESCRIBING THE EXISTING STATE OF
STANDARDIZATION. THE NETHERLANDS AND FRANCE WOULD DESCRIBE
THE IMPACT OF STANDARDIZATION. OTHER ISSUES WOULD BE
DIRECTED BY THE CHAIRMAN AND THE ECE SECRETARIAT. HOWEVER,
STATES WERE ENCOURAGED TO COMMENT ON ALL ISSUES. IT IS
HOPED THAT A DRAFT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL RAPORTEURS
IN ADVNACE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE GRCT DURING THE
LATTER PART OF FEB 1975.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR SAFE
CONTAINERS(CSC). PROGRESS TOWARDS RATIFICATION OF THE CSC
WAS REPORED. IT APPEARED THAT RAPORTEURS HAD HOPED THAT
ENTRY INTO FORCE WOULD HAVE TAKEN PLACE AT THIS TIME.
THE IICL DESCRIBED ITS PROPOSAL FOR USE OF ONLY ONE NUMBER
FOR IDENTIFICATION OF CONTAINERS AND OWNERS. THE GRCT TOOK
THE PROPOSAL UNDER ADVISEMENT. THE US DEL ANNOUNCED THAT A
SIMULATOR CAPABLE OF HANDLING FULL LOAD CONTAINERS WAS BEING
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 GENEVA 08092 241728Z

BUILT.

4. ONE DIGIT CODE TO INDICATE MODES OF TRANSPORT. THE
GRCT CONSIDERED THIS PROPOSAL. THE US RAPORTEUR
POINTED OUT THAT CODING MIGHT HAVE LIABILITY IMPLICATIONS
BECAUSE A PRESUMPTION MIGHT BE ESTABLISHED THAT
THE LEGAL REGIME OF THE MODE INDICATED BY THE CODE
WOULD BE APPLICABLE THREBY AFFECTING RECOVERY FOR

CONCEALED DAMAGE IN CONTAINERS. THE SUBJECT WILL BE STUDIED.

5. CONSOLIDATTED DATA PLATE FOR CONTAINERS. THE GRCT WAS PRESENTED WITH THE US PAPER. IT WAS A MATTER OF FIRST IMPRESSION. MOST QUESTIONS RELATED TO POSSIBLE CONFLICTS WITH THE CSC AND WITH CUSTOMS CONVENTION REQUIREMENTS. THE GRCT WAS GENUINELY INTRIGUED BY THE CONCEPT AND AGREED TO MONITOR THE WORK OF ISO IN THIS AREA.

6. FUTURE WORK. THE GRCT APPROVED ITS SHORT AND LONG RANGE WORK PROGRAM. NO MAJOR NEW ITEMS WERE ADDED; HOWEVER, RAPPORTEURS ARE FREE TO ADD NEW AGENDA ITEMS AT ANY TIME. ABRAMS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CARGO, TRANSPORTATION, STANDARDS, CONTAINERS, CONSULTANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GENEVA08092
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750371-0845
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751021/aaaaaset.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 NOV 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 NOV 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <22 JAN 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECE-GROUP OF RAPPOREURS ON CONTAINER TRANSPORT THE GROUP OF RAPPOREURS ON CONTAINER TRANSPORT OF THE
TAGS: ELTN, ECE, UNCTAD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006